

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

October 2nd, 2025 | 6:30 p.m. | City Hall

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Philpot at 6:30 pm

In attendance: Weathers, Williams, Philpot, Thomson, Caldwell, Terry, Reed

Reverend Terry opened us in prayer.

No minutes for September

Public Comment

Quanada - Kate let us know that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On October 16th they will have lunch on the lawn. There are some beds open currently at Quanada. There have been 635 domestic violence cases so far this year and that is up.

QPS - Dr. Lee let us know about the disparity in pay for our teachers compared to similar districts. They are looking at a potential 1% sales tax, raising taxes or making cuts elsewhere. He is looking for members of the public to be a part of that committee to do PR for the district. He is looking at mental health needs, new equipment and bigger facilities to facilitate more learning.

Kristan Nieman introduced herself as the new media person for the city.

Chief Adam Yates explained that he needs help with answering the question of why kids are shooting up the city. We need to find the humanity in the children before they act out violently in this way. Angela brought up her son and his mental health struggles. She will do anything to help those struggling with mental health. Alan explained that the community on the North side is gone. They have locked up the basketball courts and the kids have little positive outlet.

Scott Hicks explained how Alan Hickman helped him when he was young and we should try and do the same. He shared a video of the recent shooting.

Professor Gerald McWorter is the Great Great Grandson of Frank McWorter. This is an amazing story of freedom in America. They are trying to get a stamp and raise money for that effort. They want to become a national park. They are trying to buy the rest of the New Philadelphia land.

Committee Reports

Education Committee

Commissioner Williams referred to Dr. Lee.

Public Relations

Rev. Terry let everyone know about the newly installed Bicentennial timeline at the courthouse.

Housing Committee

Jerry Gille states he sees no ill effect from the government shutdown so far.

No complaints

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Weathers shared with us info on the world famous fish fry.

Commissioner Williams unhappy about the library protest and does not want to see us go back in time and have history repeat itself

Commissioner Caldwell does not want anyone telling her or her family they can't read a book and cautions taking away someone's freedoms.

Commissioner Thomson does not appreciate the hate she sees on Facebook towards the LGBT community and expects people to be kind.

Commissioner Philpot cautions using terms like "traditional values" because it used to be traditional for families to go to the park and watch his people get lynched.

Commissioner Terry asks people to read the Bible.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm. Motion by Terry, second by Williams.